

Draft Claims / Interview Only

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

26. (New) A recreational utility vehicle (RUV) capable of accommodating multiple passengers, the RUV comprising:

right and left front wheels;

right and left rear wheels;

a frame to which the wheels are coupled at least indirectly;

a saddle seat supported at least indirectly by the frame and having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being substantially positioned at a first level and the second portion being substantially positioned at a second level different from the first level;

right and left foot rest surfaces that are respectively positioned between the right front and rear wheels and the left front and rear wheels, respectively, and do not extend rearward of respective front edges of the respective right and left rear wheels, respectively,

wherein each of the right and left foot rest surfaces has a respective length that exceeds a diameter of at least one of the wheels.

27. (New) A recreational utility vehicle (RUV) capable of accommodating multiple passengers, the RUV comprising:

right and left front wheels;

right and left rear wheels;

right and left front fenders respectively extending behind respective rear edges of the right and left front wheels, respectively;

right and left rear fenders respectively extending in front of respective front edges of the right and left rear wheels, respectively;

a frame to which the wheels and fenders are coupled at least indirectly;

a saddle seat supported at least indirectly by the frame and having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being positioned at a first level and the second portion being positioned at a second level different from the first level;

right and left foot rest surfaces that are respectively positioned between the right front and rear fenders and the left front and rear fenders, respectively, and that do not extend rearward of the right and left rear fenders, respectively,

wherein each of the right and left foot rest surfaces has a respective length that exceeds a diameter of at least one of the wheels.

28. (New) A recreational utility vehicle (RUV) capable of accommodating multiple passengers, the RUV comprising:

- right and left front wheels;

- right and left rear wheels;

- a frame to which the wheels are coupled at least indirectly;

- a saddle seat supported at least indirectly by the frame and having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being substantially positioned at a lower level and the second portion being substantially positioned at a higher level different from the lower level; and

- a rack supported at least indirectly by the frame proximate a rear end of the RUV along an upper surface of the RUV, the rack being positioned rearward of the saddle seat and also extending forward along right and left sides of the saddle seat,

- wherein the rack includes portions that are positioned above the right and left rear wheels, and

- wherein at least some of the second portion of the saddle seat is positioned between the right and left rear wheels.

29. (New) A recreational utility vehicle (RUV) capable of accommodating multiple passengers, the RUV comprising:

- right and left front wheels;

- right and left rear wheels;

- a frame to which the wheels are coupled at least indirectly;

- a saddle seat supported at least indirectly by the frame and having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being substantially positioned at a first level and the second portion being substantially positioned at a second level higher than the first level;

- right and left foot rest surfaces that are respectively positioned between the right front and rear wheels and the left front and rear wheels, respectively; and

an exterior housing structure supported by the frame, the exterior housing structure including both an upper portion and right and left fenders that respectively extend partly around the right and left rear wheels, respectively,

wherein the right and left foot rest surfaces respectively extend up to the right and left fenders, and wherein the upper portion supports each of the second portion of the saddle seat and a cargo rack.

30. (New) A recreational utility vehicle (RUV) capable of accommodating multiple passengers, the RUV comprising:

right and left front wheels;

right and left rear wheels;

a frame to which the wheels are coupled at least indirectly;

a saddle seat supported at least indirectly by the frame and having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being substantially positioned at a first level and the second portion being substantially positioned at a second level different from the first level;

right and left foot rest surfaces that are respectively positioned between the right front and rear wheels and the left front and rear wheels, respectively, and do not extend rearward of respective front edges of the respective right and left rear wheels, respectively,

wherein each of the right and left foot rest surfaces includes respective first and second protrusions that each extend at least half of a respective width of the respective foot rest surface, the first and second protrusions of each respective foot rest surface being configured to facilitate positioning first and second feet along a respective length of the respective foot rest surface.

31. (New) A recreational utility vehicle (RUV) capable of accommodating multiple passengers, the RUV comprising:

right and left front wheels;

right and left rear wheels;

a frame to which the wheels are coupled at least indirectly;

an engine and an automatic transmission both supported by the frame;

a saddle seat supported at least indirectly by the frame and having a first portion and a second portion, the first portion being substantially positioned at a first level and the second portion being substantially positioned at a second level different from the first level;

right and left foot rest surfaces that are respectively positioned between the right front and rear wheels and the left front and rear wheels, respectively, and do not extend rearward of respective front edges of the respective right and left rear wheels, respectively,

wherein each of the right and left foot rest surfaces includes a respective first foot rest area and a respective second foot rest area that is positioned rearward of the respective first foot rest area, and

wherein at least a portion of the second foot rest area of one of the foot rest surfaces extends along a first plane that is different from a second plane along which extends at least a part of the first foot rest area of the one foot rest surface.